

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

Division of Environmental Health Services:

- 385 North Arrowhead Avenue – San Bernardino, CA 92415-0160 – (909) 884-4056
- 8575 Haven Avenue, Suite 130 – Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730-9105 – (909) 948-5058
- 15900 Smoke Tree Street, Suite 131 – Hesperia, CA 92345 – (760) 995-8154
- San Bernardino County Vector Control Program
2355 East 5th Street – San Bernardino, CA 92410-5201 – (909) 388-4600

TRUDY RAYMUNDO
Assistant Director of Public Health

MAXWELL OHIKHUARE, M.D.
Health Officer

TERRI WILLIAMS, R.E.H.S.
Division Chief, Environmental Health Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2011

PSA #11-31

CONTACT: Corwin Porter, MPH, R.E.H.S.
Program Manager
(909) 387-4692

Drowning Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility

Memorial Day marks the reopening of hundreds of public swimming pools and spas county-wide for the summer season. San Bernardino County health inspectors will begin their seasonal pool and spa inspections in order to protect the community's health and safety. Inspectors will focus on violations that impact the people who use public pools and spas.

Pool gate closures are one of a few critical violations that are noted during an inspection to minimize and prevent childhood drowning. Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for children between the ages of 1 and 4 in California. It is for this reason that San Bernardino County, Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services wants to make everyone aware that saving children from drowning is *everyone's* responsibility.

State law mandates that all public pool gates operate properly, close on their own, open outward, and latch securely so children cannot follow without your knowledge, get into pool areas and drown. Fencing for public pools should be at least 5 feet high, with bars/openings not more than 4 inches apart, and not climbable. We want to remind all those who use a pool to double check that the gate latches behind them, and if it doesn't, report it to the apartment manager, the homeowner's association board, or a responsible party so that it is repaired immediately.

There are many websites available to obtain additional information about proper fencing and keeping kids safe. For more information visit San Bernardino County Environmental Health Services at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/dehs/rechealth/rechealthbusiness.htm>, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission at <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/chdrown.html>, The San Bernardino County Drowning Prevention Network Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/SBDPN> and You Tube page at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PI-5jNnw6Is>

With summer right around the corner and more people heading to the water to stay cool, everyone needs to work together to stay safe this summer. We wish you all a safe summer swim season.

###

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
BRAD MITZELFELT.....First District NEIL DERRY.....Third District
JANICE RUTHERFORD.....Second District GARY C. OVITT.....Fourth District
JOSIE GONZALES.....Fifth District